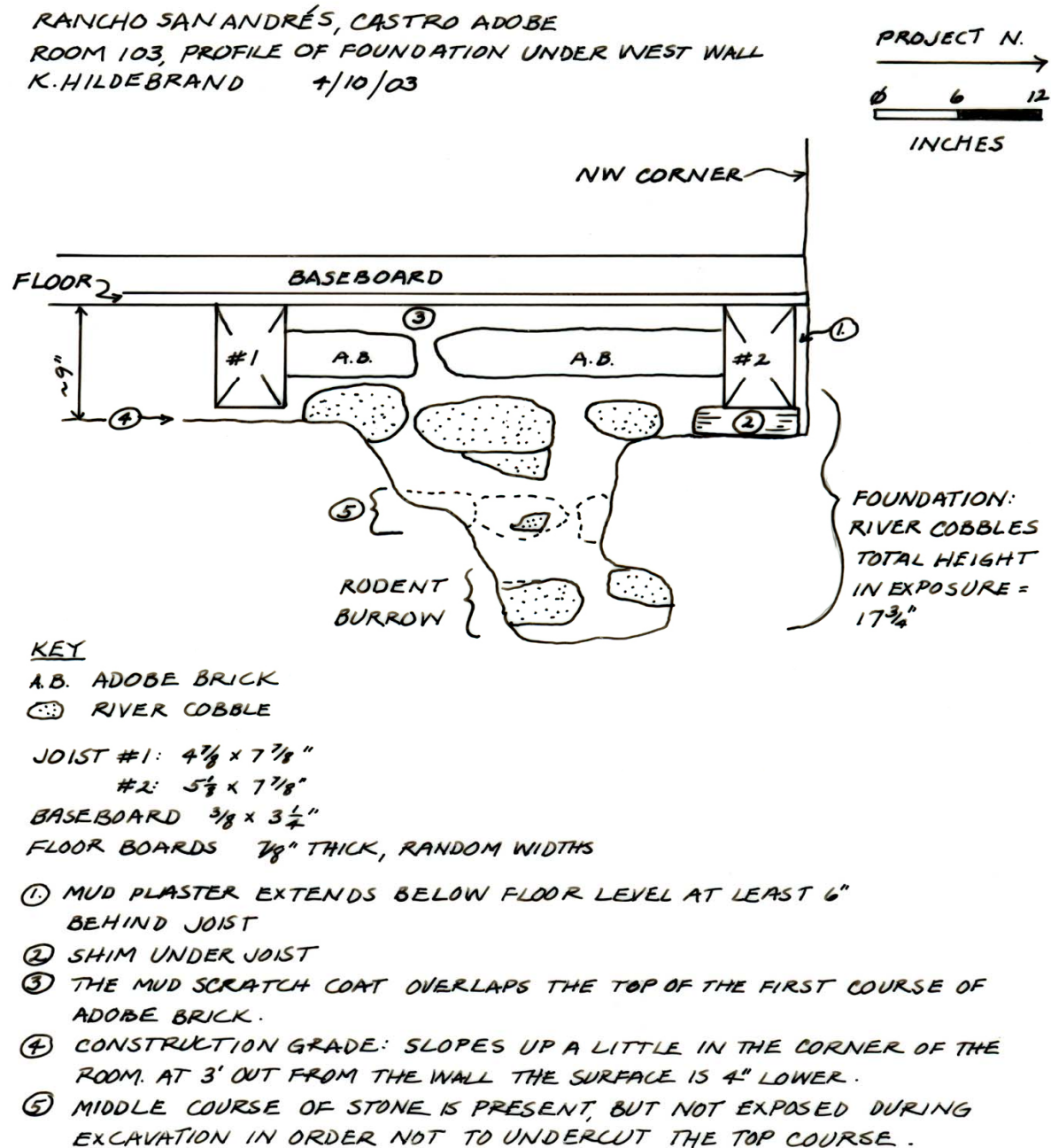


## 7.0 ARCHAEOLOGY

### 7.1 EXCAVATION IN ROOM 103

Floorboards were removed in the northwest corner of Room 103 so that the sub-floor area could be examined and a small archaeological excavation could be done to record the foundation.



**Figure 7.1** Profile of foundation under west wall of Room 103 showing foundation.

About half of the original floorboards in Room 103 are still intact. They are random width redwood with circular saw marks on the under side. The wider ones were kerfed on the underside to prevent warping. The replacement boards are surfaced four sides; they have been sanded so that the knots protrude, attempting to suggest a worn appearance. The boards run north-south, and this pattern is maintained throughout the building. The entire floor is finished dark brown, however red paint is present on the edges of some of the original boards. Wall finishes are supporting evidence that the floor is original. The mud plaster extends several inches below the existing floor level, but the whitewash ends at the floor level.



**Figure 7.2** Construction debris beneath floor of Room 103: broken adobe bricks, mud plaster, etc..

There are ten floor joists in Room 103, running east-west across the shorter dimension of the room. They were hewn and then sash sawn on two sides. All were cut a little shorter than the width of the room, ending an inch or two away from both walls. Some of the joists appear to be recycled, because the ends are shaped. Of the ones we could see, two have a scalloped detail and one has a rounded concave finish. Miscellaneous scraps of wood were used for shims to support the joists.

The table below lists the existing nailing and holes left from earlier attachments or impacts. This is a sample taken at 59" east of the west wall where a board was lifted the length of the room. Cut nails were used originally; all new boards and also old boards that have been lifted and put back in place are nailed with sixteen penny wire finish nails. The holes recorded in the "Other" column are a mystery: they are rectangular, slightly varying in size, and only about three quarters of an inch deep. Their function is unknown.

**Table 1. Joists in Room 103, numbered from north to south.**

Joist	Dimension	Existing Nailing	Other
1	4 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 cut nails	1 hole (1 $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ "x $\frac{3}{4}$ " deep)
2	5 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 cut nails	2 holes: $\frac{1}{2}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ " and $\frac{1}{4}$ " x $\frac{3}{8}$ "
3	5 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 8 $\frac{1}{4}$ "	3 cut nails	1 hole
4	5 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	Butt joint: 3 wire nails in each board	Orig. had centered nailing; 3 cut nails w/o heads; 2 holes
5	4 $\frac{7}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 wire nails	Butt joint; 3 & 2 cut nails Driven in
6	4 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	3 wire nails	2 cut nails driven in; 1 hole
7	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 wire nails	3 cut nails driven in
8	4 $\frac{1}{8}$ " x 7 $\frac{3}{4}$ "	3 wire nails	2 cut nails driven in; 1 hole
9	4 $\frac{3}{4}$ " x 8"	4 wire nails	2 cut nails
10	5 $\frac{7}{8}$ x 7 $\frac{7}{8}$ "	3 wire nails	2 cut nails

## 7.2 EXCAVATION AT WEST EXTERIOR WALL OF ROOM 101

The archaeological test for the foundation of Room 101, the cocina, had to be made on the exterior because the interior has a paved floor. The small unit was located against the base of the west wall, 3'-9" north of the joint between rooms 101 and 102. **Figure 7.3** shows the lay-out. The existing grade, that is bare soil along the west side of the cocina, is at the same level as the surface of the pavers that start 34" out from the wall, so the surface of the hard material was used as the datum for vertical measurement. This gives a reference point that will be present in the future. Therefore measurements above the pavers are plus and those below it are minus.

PLAN, UNIT NEXT TO WEST EXTERIOR WALL

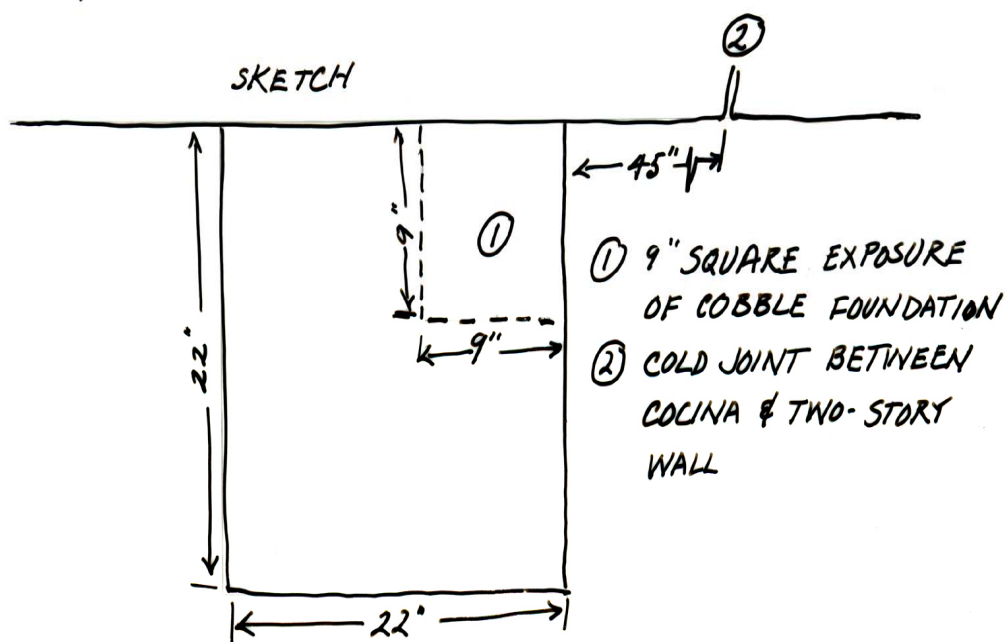


Figure 7.3 Plan of unit next to west exterior wall.

At the base of the wall, a concrete ledge (profile sketched in Figure 7.4) was broken out within the unit in order to expose the full foundation. This irregularly shaped concrete repair might be considered to be a contrapared. It lips up the wall 2 to 3"; the roughly triangular shape rests against an irregular wall surface that does not look like coving from basal erosion. This is probably an attempt to keep surface water away from the base of the wall.

ELEVATION, CONCRETE LEDGE (CONTRAPARED)  
NEXT TO BASE OF WEST COCINA WALL

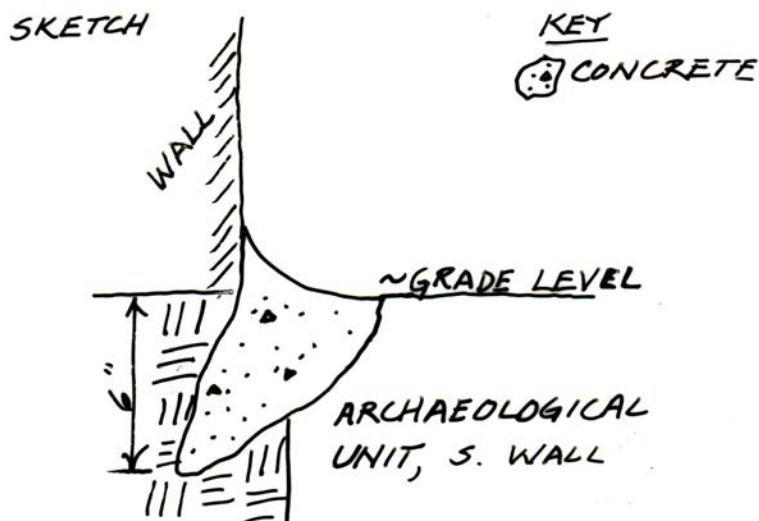


Figure 7.4 Elevation next to west cocina wall showing concrete apron.



As excavation continued beneath the top soil, we removed a layer of compacted soil about 2" thick. Beneath this we found material that was deposited during the original construction work. A lens approximately one inch thick contains whitewash, coarse sand and a pocket of mortar-colored soil. This rests on the grade level at the time of construction. We next removed a 9" cube of soil to expose the full height of the foundation. This maintained as much of the undisturbed soil as possible next to the foundation to provide lateral support. There is no profile of the foundation trench in the sidewalls of the unit, and the conclusion is that the trench was dug just wide enough to set in the courses of cobbles. This area may, however, have been disturbed when the concrete ledge was installed at the base of the wall.



**Figure 7.5** View of foundation stones at exterior of cocina (Room 101) facing east.

Figure 7.5 is a photograph of the foundation under the west wall of the cocina. The foundation has three courses of cobbles; total height here is 14", with the top at 6" below existing grade and the bottom at 20". The bottom of the adobe wall is 4-3/4" below grade which comes close to coinciding with a 4" thick layer of added top soil. The adobe wall would have been completely exposed, and perhaps the top course of the foundation as well (as is the case on the interior of the cocina.) Comparison of elevations could verify this.

Rodent (gopher) tunnels penetrate the first and second courses of the adobe brick wall within the unit. The tunneling has already been noted on the interior side of the foundation in Room 103. This damage is probably an impact throughout the building.

### **7.3 PREVIOUS ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK**

The entire parcel surrounding the Castro Adobe has been surveyed by the Archaeological Program at Cabrillo College. They obtained a trinomial for the site: CA-SCR-209H In addition, faculty and students did an intensive surface survey of about twenty per cent of the garden area to the northwest of the adobe. This collection supplemented years of surface collecting by former owners, especially the Paizis and Potter families. All artifacts were plotted and collected. Items were sorted, washed, identified, labeled and bagged. Materials include ceramics, glass, bone, metal, and stone. These fill nine artifact boxes are currently stored at the park.